

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium having computer readable code embodied therein, said computer readable code being configured to implement a graphical user interface (GUI) template, said GUI template being configured to create one of a plurality of graphical user interfaces (GUIs), comprising:

computer readable code for rendering a plurality of GUI components;

computer readable code for implementing a plurality of functions, each of said plurality of functions being associated with one of said plurality of GUI components, one of said plurality of functions being invoked when a respective one of said plurality of GUI components is activated by a user via said one of said plurality of GUIs; and

computer readable code for implementing a calling mechanism, said calling mechanism permitting a user to specify a subset of said plurality of GUI components to be rendered in said one of said plurality of GUIs.

2. The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein at least two of said plurality of said GUIs have different sets of GUI components, each of said sets of GUI components being a subset of said plurality of GUI components.

3. The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein said plurality of GUI components comprise a required subset and an optional subset, said required subset representing GUI components to be rendered in each of said plurality of GUIs, said optional subset representing GUI components rendered only when specified by said user through said calling mechanism.

4. The article of manufacture of claim 3 further comprising computer readable code implementing a visual scheme for said one of said plurality of (GUIs).

5. The article of manufacture of claim 3 further comprising computer readable code implementing plurality of user-selectable visual schemes for said one of said plurality of (GUIs), said plurality of user-selectable visual schemes being selectable through said calling mechanism.

6. The article of manufacture of claim 5 wherein said plurality of user-selectable visual schemes include locations for at least one of said plurality of GUI components.
7. The article of manufacture of claim 1 further comprising computer readable code for implementing an application programming interface (API) to facilitate extending said one of said plurality of GUIs.
8. The article of manufacture of claim 1 further comprising computer readable code for implementing an application programming interface (API) to facilitate inter-operability.
9. The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein said calling mechanism further includes a mechanism for receiving data to be rendered in a given one of said plurality of said GUI components.
10. The article of manufacture of claim 9 wherein said given one of said plurality of GUI components is one of a table, a graph, and a chart.
11. A method for creating a re-useable high level graphical user interface (RHL-GUI) template, comprising:
  - ascertaining a plurality of required components for said RHL-GUI template, each of plurality of required components being implemented using furnished features in a GUI creation software;
  - ascertaining a default look-and-feel for said RHL-GUI template;
  - coding a set of functions;
  - associating said set of functions with selective ones of said plurality of required components of said RHL-GUI template, one of said set of functions being invoked when an associated one of said selective ones of said plurality of required components is activated by a user;
  - providing a calling mechanism for said RHL-GUI template, said calling mechanism, when invoked, renders said RHL-GUI template having said plurality of required components, implementing said functions, and conforming to said default look-and-feel.
12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

ascertaining a plurality of optional components for said RHL-GUI template, each of said plurality of said optional components being implemented using said furnished features in said existing GUI creation software;

providing optional calling parameters for said calling mechanism, said optional calling parameters, when invoked in conjunction with said calling mechanism, renders at least a subset of said plurality of optional components as part of said RHL-GUI template.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said GUI creation software is Java Swing™.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said RHL-GUI template pertains to a table GUI.

15. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

providing an application programming interface with said RHL-GUI template to facilitate interoperability between said RHL-GUI template and other components external to said RHL-GUI template.

16. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium having computer readable code embodied therein, said computer readable code being configured to implement a graphical user interface (GUI) template, said GUI template being configured to create one of a plurality of graphical user interfaces (GUIs), comprising:

computer readable code for implementing a calling mechanism;

computer readable code for rendering a plurality of GUI components;

computer readable code for implementing a plurality of functions, each of said plurality of functions being associated with one of said plurality of GUI components, one of said plurality of functions being invoked when a respective one of said plurality of GUI components is activated by a user via said one of said plurality of GUIs; at least one of said plurality of functions, when invoked, affects a GUI component other than a GUI component associated with said at least one of said plurality of functions, wherein said calling mechanism permits a user to specify a subset of said plurality of GUI components to be rendered in said one of said plurality of GUIs, said calling mechanism further includes a mechanism for receiving data to be rendered in a given one of said plurality of GUI components.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 16 wherein at least two of said plurality of said GUIs have different sets of GUI components, each of said sets of GUI components being a

subset of said plurality of GUI components, said different sets of GUI components being specified through said calling mechanism.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 16 wherein said plurality of GUI components comprise a required subset and an optional subset, said required subset representing GUI components to be rendered in each of said plurality of GUIs, said optional subset representing GUI components rendered only when specified by said user through said calling mechanism.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 16 further comprising computer readable code implementing plurality of user-selectable visual schemes for said one of said plurality of (GUIs), said plurality of user-selectable visual schemes being selectable through said calling mechanism.

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